

Today we're looking at being messengers of the gospel - sharing what we know of Jesus in our own words. How does thought that make you feel?

Read 1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have ... do this with gentleness and respect,**"

⇒ Have a go at putting the second sentence (**the one in bold**) into your own words:

Watch today's video (approx. 9mins)

Note three key points:

1. God wants people saved
2. It is God who saves people, not us
3. We have some role in this, however small

How much does your own thinking and practice reflect these three statements?

Do they change your view of evangelism at all? How?

What do you find encouraging about the story of Anita and Renata? And what do you find challenging?

Read 1 Peter 3:12-16

Peter wrote this letter to a group of churches that were facing all kinds of opposition as they sought to live for Christ on their front lines. He knew that these men, women and children were really up against it and yet he wrote to encourage them not simply to 'hang in there'; but to courageously continue 'to do good' ... knowing that while not everyone would react well, it would provoke some people to ask questions ...

Imagine you were a Christian back then, facing persecution and opposition. How might you be tempted to respond?

What do you think of the link that Peter makes between the witness of our words and our actions: namely that people will be provoked to ask questions when they see our good deeds (for example see 1 Peter 2:11-12)?

In verse 15, what do you think Peter means by always be prepared? How might we make sure that we too are prepared?

Look at verses 15 and 16. In what manner are we encouraged to share the gospel? Why do you think the way we share the gospel matters?

Who in particular might God be prompting you to reach out to?

Take a few moments to think and pray and once you've identified someone, reflect on the following questions:

- How would you describe this person generally?
- What do you think is important to this person?
- What do you think they believe about God?
- What specific things could you do to bless this person practically?
- What specific things could you do to aid their spiritual development?
- What might you do in the next two weeks, in the coming months?

Once you've jotted down some thoughts

- ⇒ talk them through with one or two others in the group
- ⇒ take some time to pray for those people and for one another